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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/753,033	12/30/2000	Timothy R. Collier	42390P10501	9680

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EXAMINER	
ROBINSON BOYCE, AKIBA K	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3628	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/27/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/753,033	COLLIER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Akiba K. Robinson-Boyce	3628	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *11 December 2006*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *25-37 and 41-51* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *25-37, and 41-51* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. Due to communications filed 12/11/06, the following is final office action. Claims 1-24, and 38-40 are been cancelled, claims 25, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 41, 43, 44, and 46 have been amended, and claims 47-51 have been added. Claims 25-37, and 41-51 are pending in this application and have been examined on the merits. Claims 25-37, and 41-51 are rejected as follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. Claims 25-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Halavais et al (WO 00/65506, hereinafter WO' 506), and further in view of Sankaranarayan et al (US 6,799,208).

As per Claim 25, WO' 506 discloses a method comprising:

Receiving information from...representing different providers regarding available resource items from the respective providers, (Fig. 1,steps 1-4, server presents customer with an event log of available venues for vendors, where vendors are coded and placed on an internet server for customer browsing purposes);

Receiving a user request for tentative holds on two different available resource items, (Fig. 1, step 8, customer makes a selection of the specific seat/seats he wishes to reserve, w/ page 3, lines 20-23, customer indicates desired *seats*);

Sending the tentative hold requests for the two available resource items to the corresponding remote servers in response to the user request, wherein the tentative holds resource the two resource items without excluding other tentative holds for the

two resource items, (Fig. 1, step 8, selection is submitted to the server, w/ Fig. 1, step 9, server creates a temporary customer identification corresponding to the selections (confirmation of customer's choices), and allows multiple simultaneous users);

If each tentative hold request is granted for the two resource items, sending a reservation request for the two resource items to the user, the reservation excluding other reservations for the two resource items, (Fig. 1, steps 11(a)-12, permanent customer identification for a particular server based on selections are created as a result of customer payment verification (confirmation) being successful, and customer's selections removed from inventory);

WO' 506 does not disclose different remote servers, but does disclose accessing a wide area network on Page 1, line 12-14, in order to access two or more resource items on Page 5, lines 3-6 where the customer initiates a transaction to seat a party of four at a table. In this case, four resource items, represented by seats are disclosed.

However, Sankaranarayan et al discloses:

different remote servers, (Abstract, lines 3-23, shows multiple resource providers that support resource consumers, where consumers are arbitrated access to the resources provided by resource providers, also, col. 7, lines 47-67, shows multiple providers, where each provider is associated with a resource, and each resource is a fine quantity of a computing component in the computer system that is utilized to perform various tasks or functions, where the multiple resource providers support one or more resource consumers such as a system component or application. In this case, the multiple providers represent different remote servers since the resource manager

arbitrates access to the resources (local or remote) provided by the resource providers as shown in col. 89, lines 24-31). Sankaranarayan et al discloses this limitation in an analogous art to show resource management, implementing multiple resource providers.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have different remote servers with the motivation of implementing a system that can function in a wide area networked environment.

As per Claim 26, WO' 506 further discloses the method, wherein receiving information comprises receiving the information at a transaction coordinator of a client system operated by the user and wherein sending a tentative hold request and sending a reservation request comprise sending by the transaction coordinator, (Figs. 1 and 6, page 3, line 5 - page 4, line 13., page 8, line 10 - page 10, line 3).

As per Claim 27, WO' 506 further discloses the method, further comprising wherein sending from the transaction coordinator comprises sending to a remote transaction manager, the transaction manager being connected to the remote servers and causing tentative hold records to be created an associated with the two resource items, (Figs. 1 and 6, page 3, line 5 - page 4, line 13., page 8, line 10 - page 10, line 3).

As per Claim 28, WO' 506 further discloses the method, wherein sending a reservation comprises the transaction coordinator directing a commitment of a transaction corresponding to the tentative holds after successfully gaining the tentative holds on the two resource items and receiving confirmation from the transaction

manager regarding the tentative holds, (Figs. 1 and 6, page 3, line 5 - page 4, line 13., page 8, line 10 - page 10, line 3).

As per Claim 29, WO' 506 discloses a method comprising:

Wherein the directing the commitment of the transaction comprises initiating conventional Two-Phase Commit (2PC) prepare and commit processing for the transaction; (Figs. 1 and 6, page 3, line 5 - page 4, line 13., page 8, line 10 - page 10, line 3).

As per Claim 30, WO' 506 discloses a method comprising:

Wherein sending tentative hold requests comprises sending call back information, (see Id.).

As per Claim 31, WO' 506 discloses a method comprising:

Further comprising receiving a notification from the corresponding remote server using the call back information, the notification indicating that the corresponding resource item is no longer available and notifying the user accordingly, (see Id.)

As per Claim 32, WO' 506 discloses a method comprising:

Wherein the tentative hold records are stored at an intermediate server that is not within the providers offering the two resource items, (Fig. 1, step 8)

As per Claim 33, WO' 506 discloses a method comprising:

Wherein sending a reservation comprises requesting exclusive locks on the two resource items, (Fig. 1, step 8).

As per Claim 34, WO' 506 discloses a method comprising:

Wherein the tentative holds have timeouts, (Fig. 1, steps 9-11(b)).

As per Claim 35, WO' 506 discloses a method comprising:

Further comprising receiving a user request for a resource item, and querying the different providers for corresponding available resource items in response to the user request, before receiving information, (Figs. 1 and 6, page 3, line 5 - page 4, line 13., page 8, line 10 - page 10, line 3).

As per Claim 36, WO' 506 discloses a method comprising:

Further comprising sending tentative hold requests for a plurality of additional items, receiving confirmations of the tentative holds for the additional items, and reporting the confirmed tentative holds to the user, (See Id.).

As per Claim 37, WO' 506 discloses a method comprising:

Further comprising sending reservation request for a portion of the additional items in response to a user confirmation for the additional items, (See Id.).

As per Claim 41, WO' 506 discloses a method comprising:

Receiving information from...representing different providers regarding available resource items from the respective providers, (Fig. 1,steps 1-4, server presents customer with an event log of available venues for vendors, where vendors are coded and placed on an internet server for customer browsing purposes);

Receiving a user request for tentative holds on two different available resource items, (Fig. 1, step 8, customer makes a selection of the specific seat/seats he wishes to reserve, w/ page 3, lines 20-23, customer indicates desired *seats*);

Sending the tentative hold requests for the two an available resource items to the corresponding remote servers in response to the user request, wherein the tentative

holds reserve the two resource items without excluding other tentative holds for the two resource items, (Fig. 1, step 8, selection is submitted to the server, w/ Fig. 1, step 9, server creates a temporary customer identification corresponding to the selections (confirmation of customer's choices), and allows multiple simultaneous users);

If each tentative hold request is granted for the two resource items, sending a reservation for the two resource items to the user, the reservation excluding other reservations for the two resource items, (Fig. 1, steps 11(a)-12, permanent customer identification for a particular server based on selections are created as a result of customer payment verification (confirmation) being successful, and customer's selections removed from inventory);

WO' 506 does not disclose two different remote servers, but does disclose accessing a wide area network on Page 1, line 12-14, in order to access two or more resource items on Page 5, lines 3-6 where the customer initiates a transaction to seat a party of four at a table. In this case, four resource items, represented by seats are disclosed.

However, Sankaranarayan et al discloses:

two different remote servers, (Abstract, lines 3-23, shows multiple resource providers that support resource consumers, where consumers are arbitrated access to the resources provided by resource providers, also, col. 7, lines 47-67, shows multiple providers, where each provider is associated with a resource, and each resource is a fine quantity of a computing component in the computer system that is utilized to perform various tasks or functions, where the multiple resource providers support one or

more resource consumers such as a system component or application. In this case, the multiple providers represent at least two different remote servers since the resource manager arbitrates access to the resources (local or remote) provided by the resource providers as shown in col. 89, lines 24-31). Sankaranarayan et al discloses this limitation in an analogous art to show resource management, implementing multiple resource providers.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have at two different remote servers with the motivation of implementing a system that can function in a wide area networked environment.

As per Claim 42, WO' 506 discloses a method comprising:

Wherein the instruction are further to receive user request for a resource item, and query the different providers for corresponding available resource items in response to the user request, before receiving information, (Fig. 1, step 7).

As per Claim 43, WO' 506 discloses a method comprising:

Sending tentative hold requests for a plurality of additional items, (Fig. 1, step 8, customer makes a selection of the specific seat/seats he wishes to reserve, in this case, more than one seat being selected represents a second request, and in order to have these resourced items processed through the transaction, these second tentative hold records must be created for second resource items);

Receiving confirmations of the tentative holds for the additional items, (Fig. 1, step 9, server creates a temporary customer identification corresponding to the

selections (confirmation of customer's choices), and allows multiple simultaneous users);

Reporting the confirmed tentative holds to the user, (Fig. 1, step 10, requests payment information associated with user selections and customer identification, in this case payment information is requested through a form input, which lets the customer know that the requested resources are on hold); and

Sending reservation requests for a portion of the additional items in response to a user confirmation for the additional items, (Fig. 1, steps 11(a)-12, permanent customer identification for a particular server based on selections are created as a result of customer payment verification (confirmation) being successful, and customer's selections removed from inventory).

As per Claim 44, WO' 506 discloses a method comprising:

A distributed transaction coordinator executing on a first client system, the distributed transaction coordinator to place tentative holds on each of a plurality of resource items associated with a transaction that spans a plurality of network resources, the tentative holds reserving the respective resource items without excluding other tentative holds for the resource items, and to commence completion of transaction by obtaining exclusive locks on each of the plurality of resource items after the tentative holds have been successfully granted on each of the plurality of resource items by each of the plurality of servers, wherein the plurality of resource items are from different service providers (Fig. 1, steps 5-8, w/ page 3, lines 20-23, customer indicates desired *seats*); and

A distributed transaction manager executing on a server system communicatively coupled with a plurality of client systems including the first client system, the distributed transaction manager to maintain a plurality of tentative holds for each of a plurality of resource items associated with the server system an to grant only one exclusive lock per single resource item of the plurality of resource items at a given time in response to requests from distributed transaction coordinators, and to send a reservation for the plurality of resource items if each tentative hold request is granted for the plurality of resource items, (Fig, 1, steps 9-11(a), w/Fig. 1, steps 11(a)-12, permanent customer identification for a particular server based on selections are created as a result of customer payment verification (confirmation) being successful, and customer's selections removed from inventory).

WO' 506 does not disclose two or more transactions for two or more resource items that are from different service providers, but does disclose accessing a wide area network on Page 1, line 12-14, in order to access two or more resource items on Page 5, lines 3-6 where the customer initiates a transaction to seat a party of four at a table. In this case, four resource items, represented by seats are disclosed.

However, Sankaranarayan et al discloses:

two or more transactions for two or more resource items that are from different service providers, (Abstract, lines 3-23, shows multiple resource providers that support resource consumers, where consumers are arbitrated access to the resources provided by resource providers, and consumers can create one or more "configurations" that describe various sets of preferred resources and can specify one or more configurations

for each activity. In this case, more than one activity is shown, which represents the two or more transactions). Sankaranarayan et al discloses this limitation in an analogous art to show resource management, implementing multiple resource providers.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have two or more transactions for two or more resource items that are from different service providers with the motivation of implementing a system that can function in a wide area networked environment.

As per Claim 45, WO' 506 discloses a method comprising:

Wherein the distributed transaction coordinator includes a Two-Phase Commit transaction coordinator, (Figs. 1 and 6, page 3, line 5 - page 4, line 13., page 8, line 10 - page 10, line 3).

As per Claim 46, WO' 506 discloses a method comprising:

Wherein the distributed transaction manager is further to notify other distributed transaction coordinators that tentative holds for resource items have been suspended upon granting the exclusive lock for the two resource items, Fig. 1, step 11(b)).

As per Claims 47, 49, WO' 506 discloses a method comprising:

if each tentative hold request is not granted for each resource item, canceling any granted tentative holds/further comprising instructions causing the machine to perform operations comprising if each tentative hold request is not granted for each resource item, canceling any granted tentative holds and notifying the users of the cancellation, (Fig 1, 11(B) if payment information verification not successful, the

customer's information will not be made permanent (means that temporary customer information is cancelled.

WO'506 does not specifically disclose:

and notifying the users of the cancellation

However, this limitation is obvious with WO'056 since upon cancellation of the customer temporary information, the customer must start from the beginning, which includes browse through available venues, and in this case, since the venues are available, the presented venues represent a notification to the users that the venue has been made available (or otherwise cancelled)).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to notify the users of the cancellation with the motivation of indicating the availability of the resources.

As per Claims 48, 50 and 51, WO' 506 does not specifically disclose:

wherein the reservation comprises an atomic distributed transaction/wherein the distributed transaction manager generates an atomic distributed transaction including the plurality of resource items, but does disclose accessing a wide area network on Page 1, line 12-14, in order to access two or more resource items on Page 5, lines 3-6 where the customer initiates a transaction to seat a party of four at a table. In this case, four resource items, represented by seats are disclosed.

However, Sankaranarayan et al discloses:

wherein the reservation comprises an atomic distributed transaction/wherein the distributed transaction manager generates an atomic distributed transaction including

the plurality of resource items, (Abstract, lines 3-23, shows multiple resource providers that support resource consumers, where consumers are arbitrated access to the resources provided by resource providers, also, col. 7, lines 47-67, shows multiple providers, where each provider is associated with a resource, and each resource is a fine quantity of a computing component in the computer system that is utilized to perform various tasks or functions, where the multiple resource providers support one or more resource consumers such as a system component or application. In this case, the multiple providers represent at least two different remote servers since the resource manager arbitrates access to the resources (local or remote) provided by the resource providers as shown in col. 89, lines 24-31, which in this case represents an atomic distributed transaction since the latter merely represents an aggregation of multiple discrete transactions for resource items that span two or more network resources). Sankaranarayan et al discloses this limitation in an analogous art to show transactions occurring through two different resource providers.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to implement an atomic distributed transaction with the motivation of implementing a system that can process more than one transaction in a wide area networked environment.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments, see page 8 of the remarks, filed 12/11/06, with respect to claims 25, 31 and 41 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The claim objection of claims 25, 31 and 41 has been withdrawn.

4. Applicant's arguments filed 12/11/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Halavais discloses presenting a prospective customer with available seating for an individual selected event, and upon payment verification removing the selected seats from the available list, and fails to disclose "if each tentative hold request is granted for the two resource items, sending a reservation for the two resource items to the user" as recited in claim 25. However, Halavais discloses a request for two different available resource items on page 3, lines 20-23, where the customer indicates desired seats, and in this case the seats represent the two different available resource items. In addition, Fig. 1, steps 11(a)-12, shows that the permanent customer identification for a particular server based on selections are created as the temporary customer identification is removed, as a result of customer payment verification (confirmation) being successful, and the customer's selections removed from inventory. In this case, the tentative hold request is represented by the indication of desired seats, and each tentative hold is granted based on payment verification. If the payment verification is successful, a reservation for the resource items is sent by making the customer identification permanent, and also having the customer selections removed from inventory. In this case, the customer identification is still made permanent as a result of the indication of the desired seats, even though payment verification is incorporated, and therefore, Halavais discloses "if each tentative hold

request is granted for the two resource items, sending a reservation for the two resource items to the user" as recited in claim 25, 41 and 44.

Conclusion

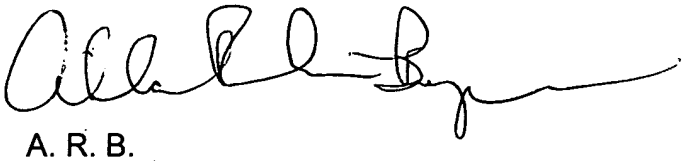
5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Akiba K Robinson-Boyce whose telephone number is 571-272-6734. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on 571-272-6708. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7238 [After final communications, labeled "Box AF"], 703-746-7239 [Official Communications], and 703-746-7150 [Informal/Draft Communications, labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"].

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.



A. R. B.
February 22, 2007